
When is Midnight?

Someone started a wild story that at Notre Dame midnight does not start until 12:15 or thereabouts. Kill it. It's not so.

In determining the beginning of a new day for the purpose of the fast or any other usual purpose, the Church permits us to follow any usual time. We usually follow standard time; we may also follow daylight-saving time or sun time if either of these offers us an advantage for the moment. Daylight-saving time may not be used in Indiana because this state has no daylight-saving law. Sun time gives us no advantage here because it is midnight by sun time when it is about twenty minutes to twelve by central standard time; if you want to use sun time for beginning your midnight fast before Communion you must begin your fast at 11:40.

You can ask an astronomer at home whether sun time gives you an advantage, but keep in mind that at Notre Dame the astronomers tell us that the sun is ahead of the United States Naval Observatory.

Novena for a Happy Marriage:

"If I had my college course to start over I would not miss the Novena for a Happy Marriage," says one of the students reported in the recently published Survey.

This Novena begins next Wednesday, the day after tomorrow. It ends on the eve of the feast of St. Joseph, to whom the prayers of the Novena are directed. During the Novena the Bulletin will reprint a series published last year, "How to Choose a Wife." The mimeograph was not used in the publication of this series last year, and many applicants for extra copies had to be disappointed. Any student who is in love is entitled to an extra set of the Bulletins this year.

How to make the Novena.

1. During the nine days preceding the feast of St. Joseph, receive Holy Communion and recite the litany of St. Joseph every day;
2. Don't try to dictate to God. You may have the girl all picked out and may be praying that she will see things your way -- which may not in the end be God's way. Let your prayer be, "Thy Will be done;"
3. Read something about the Christian ideal of marriage. "You and Yours" and "The Home World" are good books. You can get them at the Sorin Hall pamphlet rack.

The Spirit of the Novena.

Marriage is a life contract, and it can be made heaven, hell or purgatory, or a little bit of each, according to the dispositions and inclinations of the parties to the contract. The Catholic marriage is a sacrament, instituted by Christ, to give the graces to overcome the difficulties which it entails, and to make it fruitful in its purpose to give new souls to be happy with God eternally in heaven. Plenty of Catholic young men pray for a good wife: lots of them forget to pray for the grace to be a good husband. This Novena is fair and square: it prays for both intentions.

Prayers.

Stanley Grinager writes that his mother is in dangerous condition and that she will have to undergo an operation. He makes a fervent appeal for prayers -- which will certainly be forthcoming. Harold Hall, '25, asks prayers for his father who died Saturday night. Jimmie Egan wires that Commissioner Kelly's son is developing meningitis, and asks a continuance of prayers. Three other sick persons and two deceased persons are recommended to your prayers. A student asks prayers for the return of his father to his religious duties.